

The Donald W. Reynolds Institute ARKANSAS AGING INITIATIVE



THE INITIATIVE WORKS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR SENIORS THROUGH:

- MORE ACCESS TO INTERDISCIPLINARY GERIATRIC CARE
- MORE PREVENTION-FOCUSED HEALTH CARE
- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON GERIATRIC TOPICS
- INFLUENCE IN HEALTH POLICY AT STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS

The Arkansas Aging Initiative is a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The Initiative is a network of eight regional Centers on Aging, whose aim is to improve the quality of life for senior citizens and their families.

Each Center on Aging serves a geographic region, providing increased access to specialized education and clinical care for senior citizens. More than 90 percent of seniors in Arkansas are now within 60 miles or less of a Center on Aging.

"IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE MUCH ANYMORE, AND I USED TO HAVE TO DRIVE ALMOST TWO HOURS TO SEE MY DOCTOR. NOW I CAN GET SPECIALIZED GERIATRIC CARE AT MY AGING CENTER."

THOMAS JONES, 74, OF PINE BLUFF

In fiscal year 2009 alone, more than 68,000 people, including health professionals, paraprofessionals, community members and students, benefitted from the education services provided by their area Centers on Aging. The aging Centers' education services equip local healthcare professionals in preventative care, early diagnosis and effective treatment for the state's elderly population. Together, the education programs of the eight regional Centers on Aging conduct over 5,000 events each year focused on the needs identified by the community.

The Initiative works in partnership with Arkansas Area Health Education Centers, local and regional hospitals, Area Agencies on Aging, local colleges, universities and communities to implement senior programs at each aging center.

